

Soviet troops to leave Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said Tuesday Moscow had agreed to withdraw all Soviet forces stationed in Hungary and that this year possible participation in joint exercises with Soviet troops would be the last time of negotiations with Soviet Union. Nikolai Ryzhkov was the subject over the past six months. "We agreed that the stationing of Soviet troops is the result of fully coordinated political and military concepts and there is no political or military reason to have them here," Nagy said. More than 50,000 Soviet troops have been in Hungary ever since former Prime Minister Imre Nagy sought to withdraw his country from the Warsaw Pact during the 1956 uprising. The uprising was crushed by Soviet troops and Nagy was executed for treason. Nagy said the strategic and military importance of Hungary, which has no border with a member of the Western NATO alliance, made it possible to withdraw Soviet troops from Hungary. "Only and without any right which the shortest time," he said to express satisfaction from the Soviet Union withdrawal and other questions.

DPH, not in file



Egyptian police open fire in Assuit

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police opened fire to disperse Muslim fundamentalist demonstrators Monday night, killing one person and arresting 12, security sources said. They told Reuters Tuesday police used firearms after militants ignored orders to end the protest in the university town of Assuit in Upper Egypt, known as a fundamentalist stronghold. The sources said some demonstrators shot at police and buried stones during the skirmish. Security sources said about 300 people took part in the Assuit protest demanding the arrest of Zaid Rad, sacked as interior minister 11 days ago, and implementation of Islamic law. Opposition groups have demanded the former minister, a fierce opponent of fundamentalists, be tried for abuses during his term of office. Rad was dismissed after an opposition newspaper, Al Shabab, printed what it said were obscene epithets he used to describe intellectuals. Monday's protest was the first test for his successor, Mohammed Abdelfattah Masa, a career policeman with a reputation as a stickler for upholding the law. Masa was governor of Assuit Province until his appointment.

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Qasem urges U.S. to curb flow of funds to Israel

By Marwan Al Qasem
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem has stressed the urgency to stem the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and urged the United States to reexamine its law exemption laws that could indirectly encourage Israel to pursue and facilitate its illegal settlement policies.

"The tax exempt status of Jewish organisations operating in the U.S. enables them to provide Israel with the private funding needed to prosecute its absorption project," Qasem told the Jordan Times in an interview Tuesday.

The foreign minister said that it was worth reviewing the tax laws exempting, among others, Jewish organisations by the U.S. since the direct funneling of funds from these organisations in the U.S. to Israel directly contravenes the declared American policy concerning the occupied territories.

"A review of this status may enhance U.S. efforts in the region to bring about a political settlement based on the principles of the U.S. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of all states in the region to exist within secure and recognised boundaries," Qasem said.

Referring to plans announced by the Israeli government to settle thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Qasem said: "There are many countries that can discourage the exodus, which can only lead to a situation in which stability of this region will be endangered further."

Qasem said the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel will be the Soviet, U.S. and other agencies to blame. "It is clear that Soviet officials have pointed out to the Soviet envoy and others that the effects of such a large-scale immigration would affect the stability of the whole region," he said.

Qasem expressed hope that countries which are concerned about emigration will be an occasion in which we can air our ideas and thoughts on



Marwan Al Qasem

stable stability in the region would pay more attention to the response to peace efforts. He blamed the "adverse, misleading and obstructive Israeli position that the prime minister had reaffirmed one week ago" for the stalled peace process.

"Those who are concerned over stability in the region must surely realise that when Israel intends to absorb such a large number of people into the occupied territories this could only distort the peace process," Qasem said.

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Government lifts bans on travel, passports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Tuesday adopted yet another measure towards securing and guaranteeing public freedoms by cancelling all bans imposed on travel abroad by citizens and instructing the Passport Department to renew passports and issue new ones without referring to the General Intelligence Department.

An Interior Ministry statement, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the

ministry had informed Public Security Department (PSD) that all orders prohibiting certain citizens from travel abroad have been cancelled except those issued for other legal purposes.

The statement also said that the Passport Department was instructed to issue passports without referring to the General Intelligence Department.

The government decision comes in fulfillment of pledges

made by Prime Minister Madar Badran that all forms of restrictions on public freedoms would be removed and all rights of citizens would be secured and guaranteed. The government has already instructed the concerned authorities that no intelligence clearance is required from now on before employing civil servants and approved the reinstatement of employees fired from their jobs for political reasons.

House panel slashes draft budget by JD 20m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee, which is currently reviewing the 1990 draft budget, has managed to reduce the total amount of envisaged expenditure for the year by JD 20 million, the committee's chairman said Tuesday.

Dr. Abdullah Neou, a deputy from the Balqa Governorate and former planning minister who heads the panel,

told Jordan Television that the committee, which earlier reduced the proposed JD 1.105 billion budget by JD 15 million has instead reduced it another JD 5 million.

Neou said that the committee would submit a detailed report to a full House session later this week.

He said that the final session of the panel held Tuesday heard the views of heads of

King honours outgoing Soviet envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred upon the outgoing Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Zinchenko, al Iktial Medal of the First Order,

the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Tuesday.

The medal was presented to the ambassador by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Marwan Al Qasem at a dinner hosted in honour of the envoy.

The dinner was attended by a number of senior Arab and foreign diplomats in Amman.



An Azerbaijani woman in despair tears her hair out in grief over the violence in the Soviet republic.

Assad, Hrawi set Aoun as priority

DAMASCUS (Agencies) —

President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Elias Hrawi of Lebanon said Tuesday they were prepared to use force to oust rebellious General Michel Aoun from Lebanon's presidential palace as soon as possible.

"If at the end there is no alternative, I shall use force," said Hrawi at a joint press conference held at the end of a three-day visit to Damascus. "I will use everything to stop the partition."

Both presidents said ending the standoff over who ran the legitimate government of Lebanon was a priority.

Aided by dismantling all the militia in Lebanon, Assad said,

"Everything in its time, but first of all, the issue of the army rebellion must be dealt with."

He said he would commit whatever armed forces Hrawi needed to oust Aoun.

"If the Lebanese legitimacy asks to use the Syrian military forces to extend its authority, we shall abide," Assad said. "We do not have any reservation concerning any request."

The Syrian president said he hoped the rebellion could be ended as soon as possible because, "the Syrian forces have other duties and we prefer that our forces do not deal directly with the daily affairs in Lebanon."

Hrawi said that he had agreed

with Assad on a security plan for Beirut "so that it becomes a peace oasis."

Hrawi was accompanied on his first trip outside Lebanon as president by Prime Minister Salim Al Host and Hussein Al Hussein, speaker of the parliament.

Assad said Syria was committed to implement an Arab peace plan which stipulates Syrian troops would withdraw from west Beirut two years after the adoption of reforms increasing the political power of the Muslim majority.

"We will work with our brothers in Lebanon to enable the legitimate Lebanese authority take control and carry out its

duties on all Lebanese territory as soon as possible," the Syrian president said.

Press observes strike

The Lebanese press went on strike Tuesday to protest restrictions imposed by Aoun on the media in the Christian enclave.

The Press Association, which called the one-day strike, said newspapers would not publish Wednesday to show solidarity with three "sister publications" that were forced shut by the de facto forces in east Beirut.

The work stoppage did not cover the foreign press and broadcast media.

Maghreb states give more power to union

TUNIS (R) — Arab Maghreb leaders agreed Tuesday to give more power to the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) to coordinate regional policy and start practical work to set up a common market from the Atlantic to the Egyptian border.

At the end of a three-day summit in Tunis, the five (AMU) members — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — announced that the union would have a permanent secretariat and that foreign ministers would coordinate on international issues.

Foreign and defence ministers would also meet to consider possible cooperation in defence,

possibilities of cooperation and integration will multiply," he said in his closing statement.

The changes, which require amendments to last February's founding Marrakesh Treaty, increase the authority of the union as an institution and make it close in form to the European Community, in many ways its model.

Escheikh said the heads of state would appoint a secretary general and decide where to base the secretariat. Officials said Tunis, which already has the Arab League and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was favourite.

Under present arrangements,

the secretariat is attached to the rotating chairmanship. The five countries agreed that this did not provide sufficient continuity.

Political issues

For the first time since the Arab Maghreb Union was set up, it commented on political issues outside the region.

The closing statement said the five countries favoured an international Middle East peace conference under U.N. auspices and supported Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in his attempts to extend his government's authority throughout Lebanon.

Two Palestinians killed in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Nablus as he fled after being ordered to half in an arrest raid, the army said Tuesday.

The army has repeatedly used house demolitions and sealings to punish uprising offenders, despite criticism from the United States and international human rights organisations that they constitute collective punishment and a denial of due process of the law.

Meanwhile, five-year-old Mohammed Kabah was in serious condition after being hit in the head with a bullet fired by Israeli soldiers during a stone-throwing clash Monday in the village of Tur Al Arabyah.

The latest death raised to 649 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis in the 25-month uprising.

At least 173 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaboration. Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence.

The army said in a statement that troops conducting an arrest raid in the old, central market of Nablus encountered two Palestinian "suspects" and ordered them to halt. One did, and the other tried to flee despite shouts and warning shots fired in the air, the army said.

The army said the troops opened fire, fatally wounding the fleeing suspect. It said he later was identified as being a leader of a "shock committee," which enforces uprising directives.

The victim was identified as Mousa Saeed, 24, Arab reporter said.

Merchants in Nablus staged a strike Tuesday to protest the killing, the reporters said.

Stone-throwing clashes with Israeli troops broke out in Nablus and the nearby Askar refugee camp, and three Palestinian teenagers were shot and wounded, they said.

The houses of two other "shock committee" members in

Peres: Agreement on dialogue is near

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres said Tuesday agreement was very near on the first direct talks between Israel and Palestinians.

"All parties to agree that dialogue in Cairo... can be started rather soon... we are very near an agreement," Peres told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport.

Egypt and the United States have for months been trying to bring Palestinians and Israelis to the negotiating table. But Palestinian representation has been a stumbling block.

"Our position today is that we are so near to starting a meaningful negotiation with the Palestinians, that it would be a fatal mistake to give it up," Peres said.

His Labour Party rules in uneasy coalition with the right-wing Likud, hardline members of which oppose the elections proposal which would be the subject of Israel-Palestinian talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a way of finding Palestinian representatives for Israel to negotiate peace with.

Israel has been refusing to deal directly or indirectly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLO insists that it must name the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel in Cairo.

It also insists that Palestinians living outside the occupied territories join the talks.

Peres echoed his government's policy on dealings with the PLO, but said there was strong support in the Israeli government for Palestinians expelled by Israel from the occupied territories to be included in the Palestinian negotiating team.

"I think we are agreed practically on most issues, including representation, and in representation there are one or two remaining issues which I believe can be settled," he said.

Just back from Washington, Egypt's foreign minister said Tuesday his government was cautiously optimistic about cur-

Nablis were sealed overnight by the army, the army spokesman's office said. They were the homes of Hazem Feisi, 22, and Ibrahim Kanazah, 24, who have been in army custody for five months, Arab reports said.

The army has repeatedly used house demolitions and sealings to punish uprising offenders, despite criticism from the United States and international human rights organisations that they constitute collective punishment and a denial of due process of the law.

In the village of Arrabah near Jenin, Ahmad Saadallah, 31, was stabbed and beaten to death Monday night by masked men, Arab reports said. They said Saadallah was suspected of working with Israel's Shin Bet secret service.

A seven-year-old boy was seriously wounded when soldiers opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators in the village of Tura Al Arabyah.

The latest death raised to 649 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis in the 25-month uprising.

At least 173 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaboration.

Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence.

The army confirmed that troops dispersed protesters in the area. It said eight students were treated in hospital for tear-gas inhalation and released.

Troops shot and wounded four Palestinians during anti-Israeli demonstrations in the Gaza Strip towns of Rafah and Khan Younis, hospital officials said.

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Kuwaiti police break up pro-democracy march

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Security men dispersed a crowd at a pro-democracy rally south of Kuwait City Monday night. An interior ministry spokesman said five people were arrested.

The spokesman said the five were detained "after trying to resist security men and prevent them from carrying out their duty."

The statement said one of the five wielded a knife and tried to attack policemen at the rally in Farnawaniya, 16 kilometres south of Kuwait City.

"At 7:00 p.m. (1600 GMT) a crowd gathered at Farnawaniya in an attempt to stage a rally in one of the diwanias of citizens without permission," the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said.

"Despite several warnings by concerned authorities to participants to disperse, they went ahead with their plan, prompting security men to disperse them and deal with the situation," the state-run agency said.

The meeting was scheduled at the diwaniya, or open-house

salon, of former Member of Parliament Abbas Munawer to press ahead with demands for restoring parliamentary life.

Activists said security men used foam cannons to disperse the crowd. The area around Munawer's house was cordoned off.

The crowds defied an implicit call for an end to rallies from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He said in a televised address Saturday that he was ready to discuss popular participation in government after weekly demonstrations.

"We must remember that we are members of one small house that cannot bear divisions and discord... we live in times which require wisdom more than zeal and cooperation more than confrontation, conciliation more than threats," he said.

The National Assembly, for years the most vocal parliament in the Arab World, was dissolved at the height of the Iran-Iraq war in 1986 when the government said it was encouraging dissension.

Activists, including many former members of parliament, have held Monday night rallies to press for the reinstatement of parliament on the grounds that the war has been over since August 1988.

The speaker of the assembly, Ahmad Al Saadoun, told demonstrators that Monday's rally would be the last before a cooling off period to allow for talks with the government.

Earlier Saadoun told the crowd that pro-democracy leaders had requested a meeting with the emir.

The pro-democracy activists collected a petition calling for the reconvening of parliament and signed by 25,000 people but the emir has refused to receive the document.

However the emir's statement that he was in favour of parliamentary life as well as earlier comments by the crown prince in which he called for democracy have gone some way toward meeting the protesters' demands — short of actually reconvening parliament.

"We must remember that we are members of one small house that cannot bear divisions and discord... we live in times which require wisdom more than zeal and cooperation more than confrontation, conciliation more than threats," he said.

THREE WISE MONKEYS: Israeli demonstrators outside the prime minister's office during a government meeting wearing the masks of the three wise monkeys. The reference to not speaking,

seeing or hearing is directed at the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and the defence minister.

Sharon says Palestinian elections will lead to separate state, war

TEL AVIV (R) — Hardline

Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, in a challenge to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, warned Tuesday that Palestinian elections in occupied territory would lead to a separate state and war.

Sharon scored a threat by Shamir to resign if a Likud party committee rejected the prime minister's efforts, including a proposal for Palestinian elections, at a show-down meeting on Feb. 7.

"I regret the efforts to turn national issues into a personal matter," Sharon, a burly soldier-turned-politician, told Israeli radio reporters.

"Now we certainly have a first-rate opportunity for the government to review its path and to try to abandon this elections proposal that would in fact bring about a

Palestinian state, bloodshed and

war," he said.

Sharon and fellow Likud Hawks contend that an independent state, sought by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would be the first step in a bid to wipe out Israel.

Sharon said the time was ripe to drop the elections proposal as the United States had hinted it was concerned with other matters and was losing patience with the Middle East.

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"Now we certainly have a first-rate opportunity for the government to review its path and to try to abandon this elections proposal that would in fact bring about a

Palestinian state, bloodshed and

leader of the Likud or the prime minister," Shamir, who heads a coalition government with the Labour Party, told reporters Monday.

Sharon, forced out as defence minister in 1983 over his handling of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon the previous year, said, "We must have a free discussion without ultimatums and intimidation."

The elections proposal, supported by the cabinet in May, would let the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip choose negotiators to talk with Israel.

"It is still being present as an Arab concession to Israel but it is the greatest concession of Israel to the Arabs without anything in return," Sharon said.

Khartoum's stand on relief may cause exodus to rebel areas

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Western aid agencies, saying Sudan's ruling junta is delaying vital food shipments to the war-torn south, plan to sidestep the military government and launch a major relief operation in rebel-held areas.

Foreign relief officials said Tuesday the operation could cause an exodus of starving people into regions controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and would boost the rebels' status locally and internationally.

"The government does not seem to realise that it is the one which stands to lose by delaying Operation Lifeline Sudan," said the head of one major relief organisation in Khartoum.

The second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan, led by the United Nations and estimated to cost \$200 million, was due to start Jan. 1. Relief workers and diplomats have said tens of thousands could starve because the junta's pre-conditions are delaying the start.

Western relief agencies based in Kenya are already finalising plans for a substantial effort in SPLA-held areas, relief workers said.

They said the programme, to be partly funded by the European Community and the U.S. Agency for International Development, would be carried out by charities not represented in Khartoum, making the junta's attitude irrelevant.

At least two of the charities were thrown out of northern Sudan in 1987 on security grounds.

The only United Nations agency with a government mandate to work in SPLA-held areas, from neighbouring Ethiopia, is the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The relief officials said the junta's delay of Operation Lifeline was beginning to damage its image abroad, already tarnished by alleged human rights violations and its coup last June which ousted an elected civilian government.

The government insists that only basic relief supplies be sent to rebel-held areas and that plans to improve the administrative and education system there be cancelled.

Relief workers say this is impossible because the junta is committed to treat government and rebel-held areas equally.

The government also wants all references to the SPLA in documents on the operation replaced by the word "rebels."

The aid workers said it was already too late in

most of the south to distribute seeds for the planting of the main staples, sorghum and maize.

As a result most southerners would depend totally on handouts this year.

Relief workers and diplomats have said up to 100,000 people were expected to leave the Bahr Al Ghazal region in search for food by the end of January or early February.

The officials said small groups of starving people from northern Bahr Al Ghazal were beginning to arrive in Kordofan.

But voluntary agencies in Kordofan towns, where southerners flocked during the great famine of 1988, had either left or lacked supplies and personnel to handle a sizeable influx.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 in the south, a vast and underpopulated region, against what it sees as domination by the north.

Khartoum has played down a string of defeats this month at the hands of the SPLA. On Sunday and Monday rebels shelled the southern regional capital Juba for the first time in a year.

Relief workers said southerners living in army garrison towns were expected to be the first to suffer from the delay of the U.N. programme.

They said the junta was pressuring donor countries to finance an aid airdrop to Juba.

The first stage of Operation Lifeline Sudan ended last October. It shipped more than 100,000 tonnes of supplies to the south and helped prevent a rerun of the 1988 tragedy, when a quarter of a million southerners died of hunger or disease.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 622000
St. Joseph Church Tel. 614590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
El Saleh Church Tel. 661757
Terrassa Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Apostolic Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assumption International Church Tel. 683262
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055
Nasr pharmacy 625872
Al Salam pharmacy 659445
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Simeonite pharmacy 637600

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Documentary
15:45 News in French
15:50 Varieties
15:55 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic programmes
22:00 News in Arabic
22:45 Play "Peta"

STATE DEPARTMENT
15:45 News in French
15:50 Varieties
15:55 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:15 Baby Boom
21:45 Natural World
22:00 News in English
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STATE DEPARTMENT
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15:50 Varieties
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Political parties essential in Jordan's experiment — Arar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suliman Arar Tuesday renewed a call for the creation of political parties in Jordan and said he had acquaintances with preparations for the establishment of two political parties.

Arar, in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the democratic experiment "will not be complete in Jordan except with the creation of political parties."

In reply to a question on a scheduled meeting in Baghdad later this month by parliamentarians from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Arar said that the Lower House supports the creation of a joint ACC parliament but Jordan's delegation to the Jan. 31 meeting would submit a number of ideas and proposals on the issue.

The Baghdad meeting, he said, is part of endeavours by Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan to achieve full Arab integration, "which is a great step aimed at achieving Arab unity."

Arar's comments on the ACC came two days after a statement made by Prime Minister Madar Badran that Jordan firmly supported any steps towards Arab integration and unity. In comments made at a Lower House session, Badran said the ACC countries had already signed 27 agreements, paving the way for the aspired integration. An ACC summit to be held in Amman in February, 11 more agree-

Medical services in Madaba

Complaints about inadequacies in medical services in Madaba in the constituency and complaints over municipal and public services.

Demands for solutions to the unemployment problem, reduction of fuel prices, a proper programme to dispose off a large pool of water near the Pepsi Cola plant where people have drowned and distribution of street lights were presented to the deputies at a big rally held at the Ramtha Charitable Society Centre.

Representatives of various public sectors attending the rally called on the deputies to help allow drivers of taxis which commute between Zarqa and the River Jordan bridges to operate within the Zarqa region when the bridges are closed, to initiate an investigation into the harm done to public safety by the Khamis Al Samra waste-water treatment plant — especially in Duleil and Khaldeh towns and neighbouring villages — and an end to abrupt and announced power cuts in some areas.

Three major equipment installed at the hospital have been out of order for nearly one year now despite constant complaints and reminders sent to the National Medical Institution (NMI), Haddad said. In addition, the hospital is in need of furniture, beds for children and essential medical supplies, Haddad added. He said that a children's annex was ready for occupancy four months ago, but due to lack of funds no furniture and no equipment have yet been installed at the facility.

Fariz also signed the minutes of a meeting of a joint subcommittee on Jordan-Syrian industrial cooperation providing for an increase in the volume of exchanged industrial products and raw materials. Fariz also attended the general assembly meetings of the Joint Jordan-Syria Company of Industry.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HOUSE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: The Lower House of Parliament Committee of Public Health and Environment Safety Tuesday elected Dr. Ahmad Inab as chairman and Dr. Yousif Khawasneh as rapporteur (Petra).

FROZEN MEAT CENTRES: The Ministry of Supply is currently studying requests by several citizens for authorisation to open centres for selling frozen meat in various parts of Jordan (Petra).

AMMAN-TUNIS YOUTH LINKS: The Jordanian and Tunisian ministers of youth Ibrahim Ghabash and Hammoud Ben Salameh Tuesday held talks on promoting cooperation in sports and youth sectors. The two ministers discussed in particular the prospect of launching cooperation in the two fields under the terms of a bilateral agreement on cultural cooperation already concluded between them. Initial agreement was reached on setting up a joint technical committee to hold periodic meetings in Amman and Tunis to follow up coordination in these fields (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jalouz at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday lays the foundation stone for Al Amal Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped in Sabab (Petra photo)

Sahab gets centre for disabled

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday laid the foundation stone for Al Amal Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped in the town of Sabab southeast of Amman and later inspected facilities of the Al Amal Special Education Centre.

The rehabilitation centre, which is estimated to cost JD 50,000, is one of eight centres to be set up by the

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to offer facilities and care for handicapped children.

along with the 50 existing centres to nearly 6,000 handicapped children.

Work on the eight centres is expected to be completed in September of this year and to start operations by the beginning of 1991.

The 50 centres offer services and care for the physically and mentally retarded, the deaf and dumb, the blind and victims of cerebral palsy.

Soviet emigration poses gravest threat — Lawzi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Opening the door wide for Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine represents a flagrant aggression on the Arab Nation far exceeding the dimensions of all dangers posed to it throughout its history, Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said in a statement Tuesday.

"Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is bound to lend further support for Israel's expansionist aims in the Arab lands and encourage the Jewish state to perpetuate its current policies and its denial of the Palestinian people's right to their homeland," Lawzi said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Lawzi called for a unified Arab stand in the international arena in general and in the Soviet arena in particular to warn the world of the dangers inherent in Israel's settlement policies in the Arab

region and the danger posed to the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. "This emigration constitutes an open defiance of international legitimacy and the rights of all countries in the region to live in peace and security," Lawzi added.

The Senate speaker called on the Soviet government to respect its friendly ties with the Arab World and to safeguard common interests. "If the liberalisation movement and the current political changes in Eastern Europe are behind this emigration fever, then at least the Jews should be allowed to emigrate to destinations other than the occupied Arab territories until a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached," Lawzi said.

He expressed hope that the emigration movement "will not be used as a new weapon by the Israelis, who could be paving the way for new aggression against the Arab Nation."

Lawzi said that the Senate had already sent a memorandum to the Soviet Praesidium urging it to understand the Arab and Palestinian position with regard to peace and to help put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Lawzi and Zinckuck discussed Moscow's contribution to efforts to reach final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the exchange of land for peace.

Local firm gets Salt contract

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation (HC) Tuesday announced that a local firm had been awarded a JD 1 million tender to construct a housing estate in Salt.

The formal signing of an official agreement on the project is expected in the next few weeks, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, who also is chairman of the HC board of directors.

HC Director Yousef Hiyasat said that the Salt housing estate, which will be ready in two years, will have 109 housing units of two categories, 79 and 136 square metres in area respectively.

The corporation's board, Hiyasat said, has entrusted its financial committee to work out special regulations concerning savings by local residents to help them pay for housing units in easy instalments over a period of six years. He said the regulations would be announced in 30 days.

JTV, radio squirm under tight budget

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Television (JTV) and Radio Jordan directors and employees are complaining that the government-allocated JD 9 million budget for the broadcast media for the year 1990 is very tight, and they expect sharp reductions in the services and programmes offered by both.

According to the director-general of Jordan Radio and Television, Radi Alkhas, the amount barely covers the needed programmes and other expenses.

"This hardly covers anything, especially when the allocation for the TV programmes is only JD 1.2 million a year," Alkhas said, adding that a programme hour (episode) costs up to \$1,500 sometimes.

The rest of the allocations, he said, goes to electrical equipment, engineering, maintenance, administration and other expenses for both TV and radio. There is a separate budget for staff salaries.

Alkhas explained that each electricity subscriber pays JD 1 per month, which is added on the electricity bill.

That is only 33 fils a day.

and two fils an hour," he said. "Considering that we run an average of 16 hours on both channels each day, that is not much."

He added that the citizens' contribution amounts to JD 4.5 million a year, "which the Budget Department of the Finance Ministry takes anyway."

He said that it was only "fair" for citizens to be charged a little more than that amount.

"Considering that the public buys a newspaper or two a day costing 100 fils to 200 fils, and that many who rent video tapes for JD 1 per film, people should be obliged to pay a fraction more than the 33 fils a day to watch two channels for eight hours daily," Alkhas said.

He added that he plans to reevaluate the TV fees in the homes in different areas in the Kingdom to decide in which areas to raise the fee after a careful study and survey.

"We will make sure that the poorer areas in the Kingdom would pay lower fees than the more affluent areas," Alkhas said.

A form of income that TV stations depend on in most countries is from advertising.

TV malfunction explained

AMMAN (J.T.) — Those who had their television sets tuned into either of the two channels of Jordan Television late Monday night noticed that the sound was not coming out of their sets for 33 minutes. This was due to a technical malfunction, according to the director-general of Jordan Radio and TV, Radi Alkhas.

Alkhas said that there was a short circuit in a sound unit of the audio-distribution amplifier which caused other technical malfunctions and the sound was unable to reach the transmission stations.

"It should not have taken more than five minutes to fix the unit," Alkhas, who worked as an engineer at the television before he was appointed as director-general, told the Jordan Times.

Alkhas said the engineer on duty was busy fixing the unit, and did not notify the staff at the transmission stations nor the staff at the TV stations that there was a serious sound malfunction.

"That's why it took so long before a message was written on the screen apologising for the fault on Channel One," Alkhas explained.

He added that the equipment that failed on Monday night was being expanded and that new audio distributors were expected to be installed as soon as they arrive.

ing American movies sometimes cost the TV \$1,500. "So this JD 1.2 million a year for buying programmes and films hardly cover anything," he said.

The allocated budget for Jordan Radio is JD 400,000 annually. According to a reliable source from Radio Jordan "this very tight budget is supposed to cover our running cost for production of programmes, be they cultural, religious, entertainment, and so on."

Alkhas said that Jordan Radio does not impose any fees on listeners as the case is with the TV. He also added that 46 per cent of the radio programmes are services to the public, such as the live transmission where the citizens raise queries to be answered on the air, announcement of cultural activities, advice on agriculture and so on.

"Although our budget is very, very low, our radio service is up to international standard. Somehow, we manage to survive and continue with high standards," the source said.

The source added that a "relatively sufficient budget for our programmes should be at least JD 700,000 a year."

Tourism Ministry raising funds to market Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is raising a JD 700,000 fund to help finance a new campaign to attract foreign and local tourists to Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites, ministry Secretary-General Nasri Atallah said Tuesday.

The ministry has contributed \$100,000 to the fund and the rest will be supplied by Jordanian tourist and travel offices, Jordanian hotels, Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Jordan Express Transport Tourist and Transport Company (JETT), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), he said.

Foreign airlines are expected to supply \$50,000 for the project, which will be executed this year, he added.

Atallah said a newly formed

committee in charge of the project was expected to hold its first meeting next week.

The committee groups representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, the Department of Antiquities, USAID, Royal Jordanian, Jordan's hotels, tourist offices and JETT. The main issues to be discussed, Atallah said, include costs of air travel and hotel services and accommodation. The committee, he added, will soon publish pamphlets and brochures in Arabic and other languages to be distributed through RJ offices around the world. Apart from the brochures, a set of documentary films, posters and other promotional materials would be produced.

Italy helps nursing

ly important to strengthen its technical and economic cooperation with the developing world, he said.

Through this process, "Italy believes that it can pursue the goals of international peace and stability," he said. Italy provided two instructors for the programme as well as all the material needed.

Following an agreement reached in April 1988, the Italian government allocated to the project an amount of \$185,000 and sent to Jordan four experts for preparing programmes and selecting candidates in cooperation with the competent Jordanian authorities. Italy later supplied office equipment, including typewriters and photocopiers as well as a didactical slide projector, a television set and other apparatus to be used by the trainees.

The two-year programme is part of the activities of the Nursing Tutors Training Institute established by the ministry and is designed to improve nursing education and supervisory capacity of nursing instructors working in a clinical environment.

The programme is implemented through the assistance of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department for Cooperation in Development, according to the Italian Embassy here.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Courten delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony. Italy considers it extremely

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Issue of unemployment comes first

IT IS comforting to note that the government is taking the unemployment problem to heart and plans to apply effective remedial steps to alleviate it. With more than 20 per cent of Jordanians estimated to be out of work at a time when inflation has also reached unbearable proportions, it is high time to take effective measures to reverse the tide of unemployment and rising cost of living. There is a consensus among economists that that these two principal economic woes have taken a heavy toll on Jordanians and the urgent need to solve these pressing issues has superseded many other vital concerns in the country.

Of course, it is much easier to diagnose the problem of unemployment than to rectify it. All sorts of imaginative ideas have been put forward to alleviate the problem, including calls for reducing the number of foreign workers and a total ban on non-Jordanian workers. The most promising proposal submitted yet in this vein, however, is to increase export-oriented industries as the principal avenue to address the mushrooming unemployment problem. The introduction of a five-day working week has also been suggested as an effective way to spread work around. Yet, whatever the solution is and wherever the government can find it, there is no escape from introducing some meaningful steps to lessen the hardships of Jordanians who have become victims of unemployment for no fault of theirs.

While it is perhaps premature for the country to think in terms of introducing a social welfare system for the unemployed as is the case in most if not all developed countries, it is nevertheless opportune now to start contemplating ways and means to come to the rescue of the unemployed in all walks of life. In this vein, one may suggest that the terms of reference of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) be expanded at an appropriate time in order to extend its services and benefits to the unemployed as well. Even meagre assistance to the unemployed and their families would be a good start on the road that hopefully could lead the country in to an era of social security that takes full care of the unemployed. Come to think of it, the SSC is not short on funds and once its accumulated capital is most profitably invested, it may be just possible for it to start helping the unemployed, beginning with the most depressed among them. The fact that the government of Mr. Mudar Badran is fully seized with the problem and is most concerned about it constitutes a most positive beginning that could offer the ultimate solution to unemployed Jordanians.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commented on King Hussein's reaffirmation to the prime minister that the country will shortly witness the birth of the national charter which should serve as an umbrella for all political movements and groupings in the Kingdom. The paper said that the country is in need of a national charter which is in harmony with the national constitution and which can organise political activity in the Kingdom. There can be no alternative to unity of ranks and close cooperation under the umbrella of the constitution if the Jordanian people are to achieve their aspirated goals, the paper noted. The national charter, the paper added, will complement the democratic march which started with the election of parliament that has the task of cooperating with the executive authority in handling the state's affairs. The paper said that parliamentary life was the beginning of the road towards democracy, and the Jordanians look forward to the national charter which is bound to help various ranks to unite in shouldering responsibilities and in carrying out duties.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises Turkey for refusing to sign with Iraq and Syria an international agreement based on international laws and regulations on the exploitation of the Euphrates river which rises in Turkey and passes through the territories of the two Arab states. Hassan Tawalbeh says that Turkey continues to control the river water and stops its flow any time it wishes thus causing a great deal of harm and damage to the interests of its neighbours which use the water for irrigation. Experts say that the Ataturk dam will take at least five years to fill and so why the hurry and why should Turkey speed up the process of filling the dam at the expense of its Arab neighbours and their national interests, the writer adds. In view of the fact that Turkey and Iraq maintain very strong relations economically and politically, specially at Iraq's oil pipelines pass through Turkish territory; and in view of the fact that Turkey plans to irrigate vast areas of land to produce crops most of which will be sold in the Arab markets, then Turkey should reconsider its current plans and try to safeguard the interests of its neighbours and its own without causing any friction to the existing strong ties between Turkey and the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Tuesday tackled the question of the national charter as proposed by King Hussein to organise political activity in the Kingdom. The paper said the formation of a royal commission to prepare for the charter is complementary to the democratic march in Jordan which started with the election of deputies to the Lower House of Parliament. The paper voiced its welcome to the King's decision to involve all political movements in the country in the royal commission which, it said, can boost the democratic process further. Opening the door for political groupings to take part in the formation of the national charter, the paper said, is bound to enhance the spirit of confidence within the Jordanian family and strengthen unity among the Jordanian people.

Asian Communists cling to power as comrades fall

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — As they nervously watch their Eastern European comrades tumble from power, Vietnam and other Communist states in Asia have defiantly vowed to march down the socialist, one-party road into the 21st century.

Unchallenged Communist rule may be fast disappearing in Europe but it is making a stand in Vietnam, North Korea and China, where aging revolutionaries employed tanks and automatic rifles to crush last year's democratic movement.

Analysts point to several reasons why Asian Communists have avoided the fate of their European counterparts so far.

The largest Communist states in Asia were founded by home-grown nationalist leaders, such as Mao Zedong in China and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, who won legitimacy by defeating foreign aggressors.

European Communist governments, however, owed their establishment and continued existence to Moscow, and found their positions untenable when President Mikhail Gorbachev decided the Red Army would no longer interfere militarily to prop them up.

Asian nations ruled by Communists also lack Europe's democratic experience, but have a strong Confucian tradition, which emphasises respect for authority.

Further, there is no organised domestic opposition to the Asian Communist governments that would be comparable to the Solidarity trade union in Poland, which was a rallying point for dissent.

Many Vietnamese dissidents have left the country since the war ended in 1975 to escape "re-education camps" and other measures of repression. Several leading Chinese activists have fled overseas, gone underground or have been arrested since the June crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

In the face of Europe's sweeping changes, Asia's Communist nations have vigorously defended one-party socialism.

Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin said at the end of last year that party leadership was a "historical necessity. ... without centralism we will have extreme democracy and anarchy, and nothing can be accomplished."

Highly regimented North Korea reportedly recalled some of its students from Eastern Europe, presumably so they would not witness the changes that Pyongyang considers politico heresy.

Kim Jong Il, the country's heir apparent, said the North Korean Communist Party "must on no account admit heterogeneous ideas into it. In party activity, the unity of action based on a single ideology can be realised through monolithic leadership."

Even tiny Laos chimed in, with

its official radio opening the new year with a broadcast acknowledging that 1989 was "a nightmare" for socialism and calling on the people to rally around the ruling Communist Party leadership.

No Asian country has been more vocal than Vietnam in recent weeks in defence of Com-

munism.

"It's not that the tree is no good, but the ones who planted the tree are no good," said Maj. Gen. Trang Cong Man, permanent vice secretary-general of the Vietnam Journalists Association, in explaining the collapse of socialism in Europe.

Party chief Nguyen Van Linh said in his new year's message that building Socialism would be a goal for Vietnam in 1990. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said the socialist system would emerge reinvigorated after overcoming the crisis it faces in Eastern Europe.

Still, the Asian nations clearly are troubled by the implications of the European revolution and are drawing lessons. "We follow these events in Europe so we can distinguish what is good and what is bad," said Man. The sweeping changes show, for example, that Eastern Europeans wanted more democracy and higher production levels, he said.

Hanoi also realises that if socialism is to survive it needs a dose of market-oriented reform to stimulate the economy, some analysts say.

thing that European Communists failed to grasp.

After a decade of disastrous economic policies, Vietnam in 1986 introduced reforms such as deregulating prices, permitting private enterprise and vastly curtailing subsidies to state enterprises.

Although Vietnam remains one of the world's poorest nations, substantial gains in food production and in fighting inflation were made last year and consumerism is booming.

Many Hanoi stores already are stocked with the foreign colour televisions and video cassette recorders favoured by Vietnamese.

In many ways, the economic programme is similar to the changes brought about in China by senior leader Deng Xiaoping during the 1980s.

Deng refused to open up the political system, however, leading to widespread protest for democracy that eventually led to the bloody crackdown on dissent and the resurgence of aging, conservative leaders who are turning the clock back on economic reform.

Hanoi also has opted to proceed with political change at a much slower pace than economic reform.

The Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said in November that the party "does not accept opposition political parties in a socialist society — the main feature of political pluralism has been rejected by our party."

Vietnam's national assembly, after what official media described as a "heated debate," also recently passed a draft press law that forbids private ownership of newspapers and gives the central government a say in firing and appointing editors in chief.

One Western ambassador in Hanoi, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he did not believe there was popular pressure for immediate creation of a multiparty system because the country was politically exhausted after decades of fighting foreign armies.

"What the people like most is peace and security, and doing business and developing the economy, that is the first and foremost demand of the Vietnamese people," agreed author Nguyen Dinh Thi.

Another Western diplomat, who also requested anonymity, argued that the Vietnamese were not so much concerned with developing more political parties but wanted the Communists to become more open and progressive.

In a party member for 40 years who nonetheless angered the leadership with a 1978 play that protested personality cults and dogmatism, sounded the same theme.

"This party must accept pluralism of opinions," he said in a recent interview. "I think we should have many social organisations, but it is not necessary

to have many parties."

In private conversations, Vietnamese said they had learned about events in Eastern Europe from party-controlled media and Voice of America and British Broadcasting Corp. radio broadcasts. They generally reacted favourably to the changes.

One shopkeeper's face lit up when asked if he knew that the Berlin Wall had fallen.

"Yes, I know what has happened in Eastern Europe," said a store clerk. "It is good, and it will be good for Vietnam, too," the clerk said while also expressing approval of the country's more relaxed policies of recent years.

One Eastern European observer argued that Vietnam's Communists are widely disliked and could eventually face a challenge similar to that posed by pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in Peking.

Official corruption, one of the main complaints voiced in Tiananmen, is likely to worsen as the economy improves.

Whether the Asian Communist governments can survive will largely depend on how a new generation of leaders faces the challenges left by the aging revolutionaries who soon will fade from the scene.

"The party still has to deliver the goods," the diplomat said of Vietnamese Communists. If they are to survive, he added, they will require a "very pragmatic view of Marxist-Leninism."

Ethnic grievances boiling over from Caucasus to Baltics

By Andrew Katsell
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — From central Asia to the Caucasus and the Baltics, ancient ethnic grievances in the ring of security the Kremlin took centuries to gather around itself have come back to infect the country with nationalistic fervour.

Ancient grudges among neighbours that simmered quietly under the Soviet facade of brotherhood and outright demands for independence could spell the disintegration of Moscow's vast empire, leaving Russia itself standing virtually alone.

The breeding grounds are southern deserts, the Caucasus mountains, the fields and forests of Moldavia, the fertile soil of the Ukraine and the seaside Baltics.

They host a patchwork of many of the Soviet Union's more than 100 nationalities with bloody histories sandwiched between mighty empires.

Gorbachev, now forced to deal with Armenians and Azerbaijanis equipped with automatic weapons, surface-to-surface missiles and helicopters, told Soviets he was struggling with a legacy of ethnic hatred.

"The problems, which have been accumulating for tens, no, for hundreds of years, have erupted and acquired the character we are now confronted with in the Baltics, Moldavia and now in such forms as inter-ethnic strife are going on in Transcaucasia, in Azerbaijan and Armenia," he said Thursday.

In Lithuania less than a week earlier, where he was trying to rein in a peaceful but determined secessionist movement, the Soviet leader openly worried that demands for independence could lead to "the union's disintegration on ethnic grounds."

Gorbachev's openness policy and democratic reforms have let the genie out of the bottle, in many cases with violent consequences. Formerly underground and long-repressed groups pressing for secession in Georgia, Armenia, Moldavia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are out in the open.

The Soviet leader says he is not blame if what was hidden is now

revealed. But he adds his goal is to prevent the conflicts from getting worse.

Long before Gorbachev, the czars pushed south into central Asia and the Caucasus and west into the Baltics and Moldavia in the 18th and 19th centuries. They brought under their control lands bordering other major empires that frequently threatened invasion.

With arrests, deportations, pogroms, discrimination or outright murder, Soviet rulers and the Russian czars before them did little to make the local populations trust their masters in Moscow.

Alexander III introduced Russification, angering non-Russian peoples. His son Nicholas II, the last czar, continued this approach.

Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin called the Russian empire a "prison of nations." In 1917, the year of the revolution, peasants upset by the postponement of agrarian reform struck out at Russian settlers.

In the early years of Soviet power under Lenin, nationalistic ferment was high in Byelorussia, the Ukraine, central Asia, Transcaucasia and the Baltics, the same areas where troubles abound now.

Many states, like the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, took Lenin's policy of national self-determination to heart and declared their independence. But one by one, Stalin brought them back under Kremlin control.

Stalin, a Georgian, also pursued Russification. In Moldavia, taken back from Romania in 1940, the language was converted from Latin to Cyrillic letters.

Armenians and Georgians, two Christian ethnic groups in the Caucasus in the 19th and early 20th centuries sought protection of the Russian czar, now against the Ottoman empire, now against the British, now against the Turks.

After Gorbachev took power, Crimean Tatars and Armenians led the way for other nationalities in voicing their long pent-up grievances. The Crimean Tatars demanded to settle in the Cri-

Abkhazians clashed with Georgians, who also fought with Ossetians.

Ronald Suny, an U.S. scholar on Soviet nationalities, estimates there are 40 areas of the Soviet Union where uprooted populations could make territorial claims.

Soviet officials worried out loud about a chain reaction or domino effect in the campaigns to assert national rights.

Calls for independence were heard in the Ukraine, the second-largest of the 15 republics, in September when activists formed the Ruthenian political movement, modelled on the people's front organisations that are pressing for

independence in the Baltics and elsewhere.

A serious secessionist effort in the Ukraine, the cradle of Russian civilisation and a contemporary industrial and agricultural powerhouse with 50 million residents, would bring the problem much closer to Moscow or unrest in the Caucasus or the Baltics.

Political activists in Russia itself have grasped the significance of movements such as the People's Front, and formed similar organisations.

From the chauvinistic Russian nationalist organisation pamyat to movements of liberal political reformers, Russians have reacted

to the increase of ethnic feelings on the fringes with increased nationalistic feelings of their own.

Gorbachev's proposed solutions have satisfied few, and ethnic activists see them as being at odds with his outright endorsement of democratic reforms in Eastern Europe. But tolerance for that kind of change stops at the Soviet border.

Gorbachev has emphasised the historical and economic ties linking Baltic residents, Uzbeks, Armenians and Azerbaijanis to the Soviet Union. And he told Lithuanians recently that solutions can be found in his reform programme.

mentality and psychology — without a strong hand?" he asked. "He risks being misunderstood or just losing people's respect altogether. Remember the people had respect for Stalin."

"Isn't there a risk that his personal democratic and non-violence could be regarded as his weakness — in a country accustomed to a different style of leadership?"

Armenians and Azerbaijanis have bitterly criticised Gorbachev's handling of the crisis that surrounds their conflicting claims to the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

World chess champion Garry Kasparov, a resident of Baku whose mother is Armenian, blamed Gorbachev's permissiveness for the bloodletting.

"Everyone can decide for themselves, but what can one think of a government that has permitted such horrendous events?" he said in an interview with a Spanish newspaper.

At least one Western military observer in Moscow agreed with the critics that Gorbachev from the start has not acted forcefully enough.

"When you have people shooting at each other and killing each other with guns and other hardware, you have to disarm them," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity before the soldiers moved into Baku. "To do that, you have to kill some of them. If he's not willing to do that, he's not going to stop the fighting."

cover the rights and privileges of embassies.

On the other hand, the department acknowledges that an "unusual situation" has prevailed in Panama.

In an effort to track down Panamanians who had served as the personal bodyguards to Manuel Noriega, U.S. troops have been checking cars entering and leaving the Cuban mission. Some experts contend such vehicles are exempt from such examination under international law.

The incidents "put in jeopardy American diplomatic missions all over the world," said Perry Sharlane, a former president of the Vienna convention.

Over the last decade, the State Department has been working to enhance security at posts in countries where U.S. policies are highly controversial.

The potential vulnerability of diplomatic missions was underscored by the 1979 Iran hostage crisis and the 1983 attack on the U.S. embassy in Lebanon that claimed 47 lives.

The discovery of the weapons cache at the Nicaraguan embassy in Panama prompted an administration statement Jan. 8 questioning the legality of the Nicaraguan



Special teachers are a rarity



The children celebrate Mother's Day

Jordan has an estimated 90,000 cases of mentally handicapped children. Care for these children requires a budget of JD 60 million. Only JD 500,000 is provided. **Sana Atiyah** reports:

Forsaken, forgotten children

AMMAN — Jordan enjoys a regional reputation as a country with a social conscience, exemplified by the number of voluntary and charitable societies caring for the less fortunate, particularly the physically disabled. Overlooked in the bargain is the sad fact that only a tiny fraction of the Kingdom's estimated 90,000 cases of mentally retarded children has access to the few special centres which care for them.

According to Dr. Abdullah Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), there are only 13 centres in Jordan providing care for about 2,000 mentally retarded. One of the main reasons for the situation, according to Khatib and other experts, is the lack of government funding. While the estimated requirement to implement a comprehensive programme to address all cases of handicapped in the country is around JD 60 million, government funding remains at a meagre JD 500,000, Khatib said.

According to the GUVS president, the numerous voluntary societies and organisations in the country raise whatever they can and try to help the handicapped, but still the facilities and services thus made available are far short of the actual requirement.

Not having enough centres to serve the disabled — particularly the mentally retarded — is only one aspect of the situation; there are many other gaps that need to be filled. No special playgrounds or recreational facilities — one of the prime needs of the mentally retarded — are available in the Kingdom. One might ask why there should be segregated facilities for the mentally handicapped; the answer, according to experts in the field, is simple — the awareness among the Jordanian people of the need to deal with the mentally retarded as equal human beings is so low that segregated facilities are the only remedy as the first step towards increasing awareness and move towards giving the mentally handicapped their rightful place in society.

Sense of 'alienation'

"I cannot take my daughter anywhere during the summer vacation because people gather around and stare at her as if she came from another planet — as if she doesn't belong to the human race," a mother of an autistic daughter told the Jordan Times.

Aida Bseiso has devoted the past 15 years to helping her daughter Basma, but is bitter and frustrated over the gaps that need to be filled.

"During the summer, I really suffer because I cannot take her to a garden, a park or a club because of the way people look at her, the way they talk to her, stare at her. It really hurts, and she is very sensitive," Bseiso said.

She had to cancel memberships in two private clubs in Amman because of the discomfort it caused her and Basma.

"There is no place we can take our children for recreation, for swimming or playing... not a single place in Amman," she said.

It was four years into Basma's life before the Besisos found out that she was autistic, a form of abnormal subjectivity where a child accepts and lives a fantasy rather than reality, characterised by withdrawal.

Before that, different doctors provided various diagnoses for

Basma's problem. For a long period, Basma was on wrong medication that eventually made her case more severe — only one of many common medical malpractices which get reported.

Basma could not receive specialised help because there are no specialists in autism in the Kingdom. In fact, Basma was not even accepted in specialised centres for the handicapped as a small child.

Having noticed that many other severely mentally handicapped children were being rejected at the existing centres, Bseiso took it up on herself to establish the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NAMH) in 1978. Along with other parents of mentally handicapped children and specialists, she founded the society, and later a centre.

There are no estimates over the number of autistic children in the Kingdom, but there are probably enough in need of proper treatment from doctors specialised in this field.

Need for experts

Again the problem is finding. "We thought of inviting experts on autism, but they need accommodation, plane tickets and all sorts of things. We cannot afford it, although we are in need of people who understand autistic children," Bseiso pointed out.

In the meantime, and for 15 years, Bseiso has been working with her only daughter on the basis of trial and error.

"Sometimes we're stuck; we don't know what to do. But we are trying our best, and I'm sure there are methods where we can break through with autistic children," Bseiso said, repeating the need for specialists.

Besides lack of money and expertise, Bseiso, along with other parents of severely mentally handicapped children, face a problem with finding proper dental clinics for the children.

Basma is one of the cases that

needs complete anaesthesia before a dentist can attend to her teeth.

"There is not a single dental clinic in the whole Kingdom to care for the mentally handicapped, and none of the hospitals have the facilities," Bseiso said.

Mentally handicapped are especially discriminated against in Jordan, again due to lack of awareness and understanding from the bulk of the population that special people not only need special attention, but also special courtesy, experts say.

When the NAMH had to move the centre from Sweifich because the landlord wanted to build another storey and live in the house, it took the management of the centre months before finding a new place.

"It was a very painful experience. For months, we looked for an independent villa to be our centre, and couldn't find one — not because there are no empty houses in Amman but because the landlords refused to lease them out to us," Bseiso said.

Headlines

From the Bseiso's perspective, the centre needs — perhaps along with many other similar centres — are funds. The amount that would make the centre survive is JD 40,000 a year.

Although the NAMH holds an annual charity bazaar (where not much money is made any way), GUVS provides the centre, as well as all the others, a sum of JD 300.

The centre needs special educational equipment and toys, bigger premises that would include a hostel to enable children to rest for a short period when necessary, and a vocational centre for older children.

"One of my older students, 16 years old, has not come to the centre this week. He called me up this morning and told me that he was getting bored; that he needs to learn more; that what he already knows," Sylvia Salem, director of the centre, told the Jordan Times.

She said that when the children acquire basic skills — to read, write and solve math problems, — "they need to do more, learn more, and feel stimulated and productive; to develop their potential skills."

"If we had a vocational centre, this boy and many others would not need to sit at home doing nothing. Between the ages of 10 and 12, mentally handicapped children need to prepare for vocational training. And then, by the time they are

16 they have to receive full vocational training to prepare them for a profession," Salem said.

The centre as well as parents also feel an urgent need for a hostel where children can stay on a temporary basis when necessary.

"If the mother is busy with an important matter, like a death in the family for example, who would take of her handicapped child? Where would he or she go? What if she needs to travel somewhere and must leave her child behind?" Bseiso asked.

According to Salem, if a hostel was set up, the children can stay there and receive not only the special care they need, but also a closer observation of their behaviour by specialists in order to understand their problems and habits as if they were at home not at school.

The 2,000 mentally handicapped are fortunate to be able to find special schools and centres to take care of them and teach them things that would make them survive in society. But what about the 88,000, many of whom are children? Where should they go?

If society is more understanding, these unfortunate children would not have to face the double-difficulty of not receiving special care and not being accepted as human beings in society.

When Bseiso saw the Oscar-winning film "Rain Man," about an autistic man played by Dustin Hoffman, at a local movie theatre, she was very hurt to find the audience laughing at the "not so funny parts" as if it were a comedy.

She said that this was only a small example of how ignorant most Jordanians were concerning the mentally handicapped.

When this reporter saw "Rain Man" in the United States, she noticed the audience left the movie theatre with tears and smiles on their faces; sympathetic tears and smiles of understanding.

How to hold down population explosion

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More schools and more jobs for women would do most to hold down huge growth in the numbers of people in the Third World, a report by the Population Institute has said.

It found a link between ignorance and overpopulation.

"The population explosion is no longer a prediction. It's already here," according to the institute, an advocacy group on this issue.

The study noted that last year, the world's population increased by more than 90 million people.

Rich countries like the United States have ignorant people as well as the Third World, though there are fewer. The report said that among people in some industrial countries, one in 10 is "functionally illiterate." That is, they can read and write some, but they cannot follow printed instructions or write a simple letter.

The report said about 300 million of the world's 3.5 billion people cannot read, and that almost two out of every three illiterates are women.

"In Sudan women with no formal education had, on average, 6.5 children," it said. "But rates have been slow to decline

Sudanese women with four to six years of school averaged five children and those with seven or more years of school averaged 3.4 children."

In Mexico... uneducated women had an average of eight children but women with seven or more years of education averaged 2.7," the report said.

The study reported that women who get only one or two years of school tend to have more surviving children rather than fewer. It suggested that was because even a little education helps a mother keep her babies alive. Women who stay at school longer get married later and know more about contraceptives.

The study was prepared by Harold N. Burden, the institute's director of information, and Werner Fornos, its president.

"Nations that have opened up the schoolhouse and the workplace to women have experienced uniform declines in their fertility rates," Fornos said.

At a news conference, he praised South Korea for its programme to give all girls eight years of school and to emphasise the textile industry as a big employer of women.

"In Bangladesh... high fertility rates have been slow to decline

and many girls are already married by the age of 13," the report said.

Bangladesh, where the average year is one of the world's poorest countries.

The report continued: "By contrast, South Korea, a country of 42 million people which has made significant economic strides in recent years, has a 1.4 per cent annual growth rate — the lowest of any major developing nation in Asia — and the average age at first marriage has risen from 17.8 years several decades ago to approximately 23 years today."

The World Bank put the average income in South Korea at \$3,530 in 1988.

Fornos also cited Mexico for encouraging industries along the border that make goods for the United States. He said there are about 900 where women do 85 per cent of the work on such jobs as assembling computer parts.

He found 30 countries in the Third World in this kind of restructuring: from Zimbabwe, trying like South Korea to keep girls in school for eight years, to Indonesia, where "mothers' clubs" help women care for their babies and learn new skills.

star formation when vast amounts of matter are attracted to a core by gravitational force. Black holes, bodies massive enough to create a gravitational field that keeps even light from escaping, can also generate X-rays by pulling material from nearby stars.

This is considered close, astronomical.

A light year is the distance that light travels in space in a year, about nine trillion kilometres.

The discovery of X-ray emitting galaxies so close and seemingly undergoing star formation, Helfand said, suggests that in the history of the universe star formation continued up until relatively recently. Most astronomers believe that star formation took place in the early part of the 15 to 20 billion-year-old universe and then tailed off.

"These galaxies may be bright X-ray sources because they are undergoing an early stage of their evolution and still forming massive stars," said Helfand. "They may be a key link in being able to study the evolution of galaxies."

X-rays are thought to be generated naturally in the universe when interstellar gas is heated to millions of degrees. Such heating can occur during the course of

star formation when vast amounts of matter are attracted to a core by gravitational force. Black holes, bodies massive enough to create a gravitational field that keeps even light from escaping, can also generate X-rays by pulling material from nearby stars.

To find the X-ray emitters, Helfand and Hamilton gathered data on 100 faint radio sources in a region of the sky about the size of the full moon. These sources were then checked to see if they coincided with X-ray hot spots that had been discovered by satellites. Seven of the radio emitters were found to be bright in X-rays, and these later were found by optical telescopes to be very faint galaxies.

Helfand and Hamilton presented their study at the 175th national meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

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Algeria restricts borrowing

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has taken a first step toward lightening its \$24 billion foreign debt burden by ordering state companies to restrict short-term borrowing.

Central bank governor Abderrahmane Hadi-Nacer told Reuters in an interview the move was part of a strategy to spread Algerian debt over a longer period, easing the immediate strain on the economy, without rescheduling.

He said Algeria would adopt sophisticated new techniques to cut the cost of new borrowing.

"We do not want to practice direct, indirect or disguised rescheduling," Hadi-Nacer said.

"Any practice resembling a rescheduling or restructuring does not concern us."

Effective Jan. 5, state companies have had to pay cash for imports of under \$2 million, unless they can draw on existing credit facilities.

The central bank's new committee of foreign borrowings must approve any short-term credit higher than that amount, Hadi-Nacer said.

The object is to help raise the average life of Algerian debt from three to four years at present to six to seven years by 1993, the central bank said in a recent report.

Algeria's economy has been in crisis since world oil prices plummeted in the early 1980s, cutting in half the main source of revenue.

Three-quarters of last year's export earnings of \$10 billion were eaten up by debt service, crippling the country's ability to import the spare parts and raw materials it needs to revive its factories.

Youth riots in October 1988 led

to sweeping political and economic reforms, but they have made little headway so far against inflation, double-digit unemployment and shortages of consumer goods.

Hadi-Nacer said that while long-term recovery prospects were excellent, Algeria was economically pinched because of the short-term nature of its debt.

State companies should avoid seeking short-term credit from suppliers, often at unfavourable terms, and turn instead to Algerian banks.

"What we are trying to do is separate the commercial and financial operations. The moment an importer approaches the market with the need for financing, his negotiating margin diminishes," he said.

The new system would encourage importers to group purchases, achieving economies of scale, and would free them from financing constraints to negotiate better prices.

Algerian banks would be required to seek and negotiate external finance for their clients and adopt innovative new techniques to cut the cost of funds. Medium-term borrowing is to be expanded.

Hadi-Nacer reiterated a long-standing Algerian policy of refusing to reschedule on the grounds it would tarnish the country's signature.

He declined to identify what new borrowing techniques the country planned, saying that would prejudice negotiations with banks, but ruled out debt

swaps that would amount to individual acts of rescheduling.

"We are not going to ask banks who have lent us \$100 million short-term to give us a new loan of \$100 million to pay them back over eight years," he said.

"Management of our existing debt will not change. We will pay all outstanding at 100 per cent of their value," he stressed.

A recent central bank report estimated the foreign borrowing requirement this year at \$7.8 billion, or \$4.5 billion under an optimistic alternative scenario involving new borrowing techniques.

The report said Algeria would seek balance of payments support from the international market in 1990, and a series of World Bank adjustment loans to benefit the financial, industrial and construction sectors.

In the latest major Algerian intervention on world markets, a group of five French banks last month lead managed a one billion franc (\$172 million) credit for two Algerian banks, Banque Nationale d'Algérie and Banque Externe d'Algérie.

Meanwhile, an Algerian state engineering firm employing 3,500 workers reopened after an unprecedented eight-day closure, the official APS news agency said.

Real-Sider, a metal engineering and construction group in the eastern city of Annaba, was shut down by management on Jan. 14 after workers threatened to strike.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arab National Bank boosts profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's Arab National Bank has said its 1989 net profit jumped 24 per cent to a record 322 million riyals (\$86 million). Managing Director Haider Darwish told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh the bank predicted better results in 1990 but did not expect profits to rise at the same rate because of anticipated declines in Saudi interest rates. Provisions for bad and doubtful loans in 1989 were kept steady at the previous year's level of 62 million riyals (\$16.5 million) he said. A bank statement said revenues rose 21 per cent to 1.3 billion riyals (\$345 million) while expenses increased by 20 per cent to 973 million riyals (\$260 million). Total assets climbed 16 per cent to 15.7 billion riyals (\$4.2 billion). Arab National Bank is owned 40 per cent by the Amman-based Arab Bank Limited and 60 per cent by Saudi shareholders.

Manila, banks sign agreement

NEW YORK (AP) — The Philippines government Monday began formal signing ceremonies here with more than 350 international creditors banks on amendments to the country's public sector restructuring agreements and 1985 new money agreement. Manufacturers Hanover Trust company announced. Manufacturers Hanover, a major New York bank, heads the bank

advisory committee that negotiates with the Philippines on its \$12 billion foreign bank debt, which represents nearly half its total \$28 billion foreign debt. Last Jan. 3 the Philippines bought back \$1.3 billion of its foreign bank debt for \$650 million, and undertook to borrow \$1 billion more from the banks through an international bond issue. Manufacturers Hanover said the amendments signed Monday "conform the interest rate, tenor and grace period of the 1985 new money agreement to those of the new Philippine bonds."

Iran to introduce unleaded petrol

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has said it would introduce unleaded petrol later this year to cut pollution. Tehran radio quoted the head of a fuel research department at the oil ministry as saying plans were being studied to phase out leaded petrol over 10 years. The head of the environment protection organisation, Hadi Manafi, said motor vehicles were responsible for 70 per cent of Tehran's "alarming" air pollution, the rest coming mainly from factories and heaters, Iran's IRNA news agency has reported.

Iran seeks foreign credits

TOKYO (R) — Iran wants to resume borrowing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to finance its post-war reconstruction after a decade of restrictions, a Japan foreign ministry official said.

Iran central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adel was quoted by the official as telling Mitsuru Watanabe, director-general of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, that Iran received a mission from the World Bank recently to discuss credits.

Iran expects an IMF mission soon, Adel told Watanabe during a January visit to Iran, the official said.

Iran has refused to engage in foreign borrowing since the Islamic revolution in 1979, the ministry official said.

The use of foreign credits as a

means of economic reconstruction has caused heated debate among Iranian leaders since eight years of war with Iraq ended in August 1988.

The late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini initially ruled out borrowing, but later gave the go-ahead to limited use of foreign credit to rebuild the economy.

Iran has sounded out qualifications and procedures for receiving yen credits, but has not yet officially sought them, foreign ministry officials said.

"No specific request has been made by Iranian officials as yet. They seem to have in the works their plans for foreign credit and new oil and gas projects, said a ministry official.

In a 1989 estimate, the World Bank put Iran's per capita gross national product at \$1,500 to \$3,499, another ministry official said.

said. He said Japan is likely to limit credits to countries, where per capita gross national product is no more than \$2,200 for the year starting next April.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said earlier this month that Iran had to borrow hard currency to rebuild its war-shattered economy.

He praised parliament for approving a five-year development plan allowing use of up to \$27 billion of foreign credit.

An Iranian oil ministry mission began a visit to Japanese trade, oil and engineering firms this week to explain the plan, trade sources said. The 12-member mission, led by Deputy Oil Minister Madjid Hedayatzadeh, has no plans to meet government officials, an Iranian embassy official said.

Study shows global decline in mergers and acquisitions

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (R) — Corporate mergers and acquisitions fell worldwide in 1989, a recent study found, but the compilers said the decline may not herald a trend.

A separate study found that the number of U.S. mergers and ac-

quisitions fell in the fourth quarter after a slumping market in high-risk, high-yield "junk" bonds made it more difficult to finance leveraged buyouts.

The worldwide study, by JDD Information Services, said about 5,222 merger and acquisition transactions were completed in 1989, worth \$374.3 billion, against 5,634 deals in 1988, totaling \$375.9 billion.

If the record \$24.6 billion leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco Inc. announced in November 1988 and completed last year, were removed from 1988's total, the decline would equal 8.3 per cent.

The company said the 1989 decline may not herald a trend since it reflected in large part the huge volume of 1988, when investors took advantage of low-priced

assets after the 1987 stock market crash.

The \$374.3 billion total reached in 1989 represents a 31.6 per cent increase over 1987's \$255.9 billion.

JDD also partly attributed last year's decline to a weaker junk bond market, saying annual volume of junk bond issues dipped from \$27 billion in 1988 to \$24 billion last year.

In a quarterly survey of U.S. mergers and acquisitions, W.T. Grimm and Co., a unit of Merrill Lynch, said that in the fourth quarter, 473 potential deals were announced, down 13 per cent from the 542 in the fourth quarter of 1988.

It said this was "due to the weakening of the junk bond market and the subsequent difficulty in securing financing."

M.E. oil producers seen regaining dominance of market in few years

MANILA (R) — Middle East producers are likely to reassert their dominance of global oil supply within the next 10 years, forcing prices above \$30 a barrel, Indonesia's energy minister said Tuesday.

Ginanjar Kartasasmita, speaking at the opening of a Manila energy conference, called on the nations of South East Asia to cooperate to diversify energy resources and avoid dependence on oil from outside the region.

He said production by countries outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was expected to plateau and start tapering off by the mid-1990s.

"Oil demand is expected to continue its growth, especially as environmental pressures may limit coal and nuclear utilisation in the developed world," Ginanjar said in a keynote address.

With some smaller OPEC producers like Indonesia unable to increase output significantly, Ginanjar said, the "world will depend to a much greater extent than today on countries with large oil reserves and production capacities — those located in the Middle East."

He said oil prices could be \$30 a barrel or higher by the turn of the century, against around \$20 today.

Ginanjar said the Association

of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Indonesia with the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia, should cooperate closely to develop alternative sources of energy and find new domestic oil reserves.

He said ASEAN was likely to be a major centre of economic growth in the coming decade, with the region turning into a net importer of energy.

"If oil prices at the turn of the century were at a moderate \$30 per barrel level, the net cash outflow on energy, primarily oil, would be more than \$18 billion annually. The region may not be able to carry that burden," he noted.

He said that while giving priority to hunting for new oil reserves, the region could also use its large supplies of coal and natural gas more, as well as expanding use of non-exportable forms of energy such as geothermal and hydroelectric power.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi pledged in remarks published Tuesday that Iraq was committed to its OPEC supply quota of 3.14 million barrels per day (b/d), despite completion of new oil outlets.

"We will not violate the production accord laid by OPEC... and we expect all other member

states to do the same," Chalabi told the English-language newspaper The Baghdad Observer.

He said Iraq's export capacity was about five million b/d. Around 1.65 million b/d could be exported through Turkey, 1.65 million through Saudi Arabia and 1.6 million by sea from Iraqi Gulf ports.

Three berths at Al Bakr Gulf terminal were in full operation feeding large oil tankers. A fourth would begin operating early next month.

"Current export capacity and outlets ensure us a high degree of export flexibility, bearing in mind the export bottlenecks Iraq used to suffer," he said.

Iraq was unable to export oil by sea during its eight-year war with Iran, relying mainly on pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Baghdad began repairing its export terminals on the Gulf after an August 1988 ceasefire.

Chalabi called for early dialogue between oil exporters and consumers to encourage stability in world oil prices.

"Generally, the parties concerned stand for holding such a dialogue, with a few exceptions like Britain which reject it," he said.

He said all OPEC states except the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were adhering to their supply quotas agreed in November. The oil price would probably not be affected by the UAE's stance, he added.

He said 50 per cent of the world's energy in future decades would continue to come from oil.

"There appears no economic or environmental need for giving up oil and gas as the main source of energy," he said.

Merrill Lynch President Daniel Tully said in an interview.

"It's a recognition that there's been a sea change in the industry...," he said.

Tully said the charge included \$120 million for severance payments, \$125 million to write down the value of existing assets and \$220 million to cover office sales and lease payments.

Merrill officials said they expected the restructuring eventually would save \$100 to \$200 million a year.

Merrill blamed the overall 1989

an awful lot more to come, I'm sure at other firms as well."

Wall Street has lost more than 23,000 jobs since the crash, which followed broad expansion during the heady bull market. Merrill's cuts have been the most stunning because of the firm's pre-eminence.

Only Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., which has cut its work force by more than 50 per cent since resolving government securities fraud charges, has experienced a more severe reduction.

The restructuring charge that we took was planned and deliberate in response to the difficult market we face in our industry," Merrill Lynch President Daniel Tully said in an interview.

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Merrill blamed the overall 1989

decline on hard times characterised by an exodus of small investors, slumping investment banking profits that reflect a decline in merger activity, a severe drop in the junk bond market and increased competition.

The firm expanded aggressively during the mid-1980s, diversifying its businesses and reaching a peak employment of 47,000 shortly before the crash.

By the end of the year, Merrill is expected to have a total work force of around 36,800, compared with 40,500 at the end of 1989.

Merrill said the two areas of decline reflected markdowns in the firm's inventory of high-yield bonds. The junk bond market was battered in 1989 because of a series of huge defaults and declines in the use of the securities to finance mergers and takeovers.

Merrill plans to eliminate about 3,000 jobs by the end of 1990 through layoffs, attrition and selling off businesses. In addition, Merrill recently cut 700 positions by selling its Canadian retail brokerage operation and eliminated 300 more jobs through cuts in its Broadcast Capital Corp. account-clearing business.

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WEST

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SOUTH

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Q A J 5

9 8 5

♦ J 10 9 8

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ 1 0 2 0 Pass

2 ♦ Pass 4 0 Pass

5 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Legends: 1 then P, Hal Siles

never strengthened a missing queen.

When partners set up a hand

where the queen of trumps was

missing and gave each defender the

lady, Siles is reported to have stood

at the cards for a while before announcing:

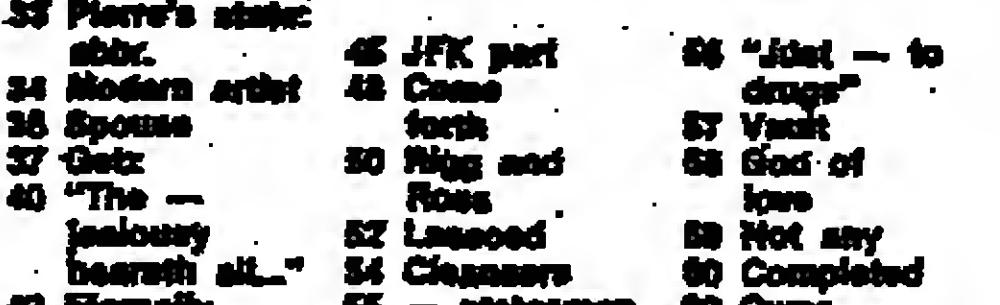
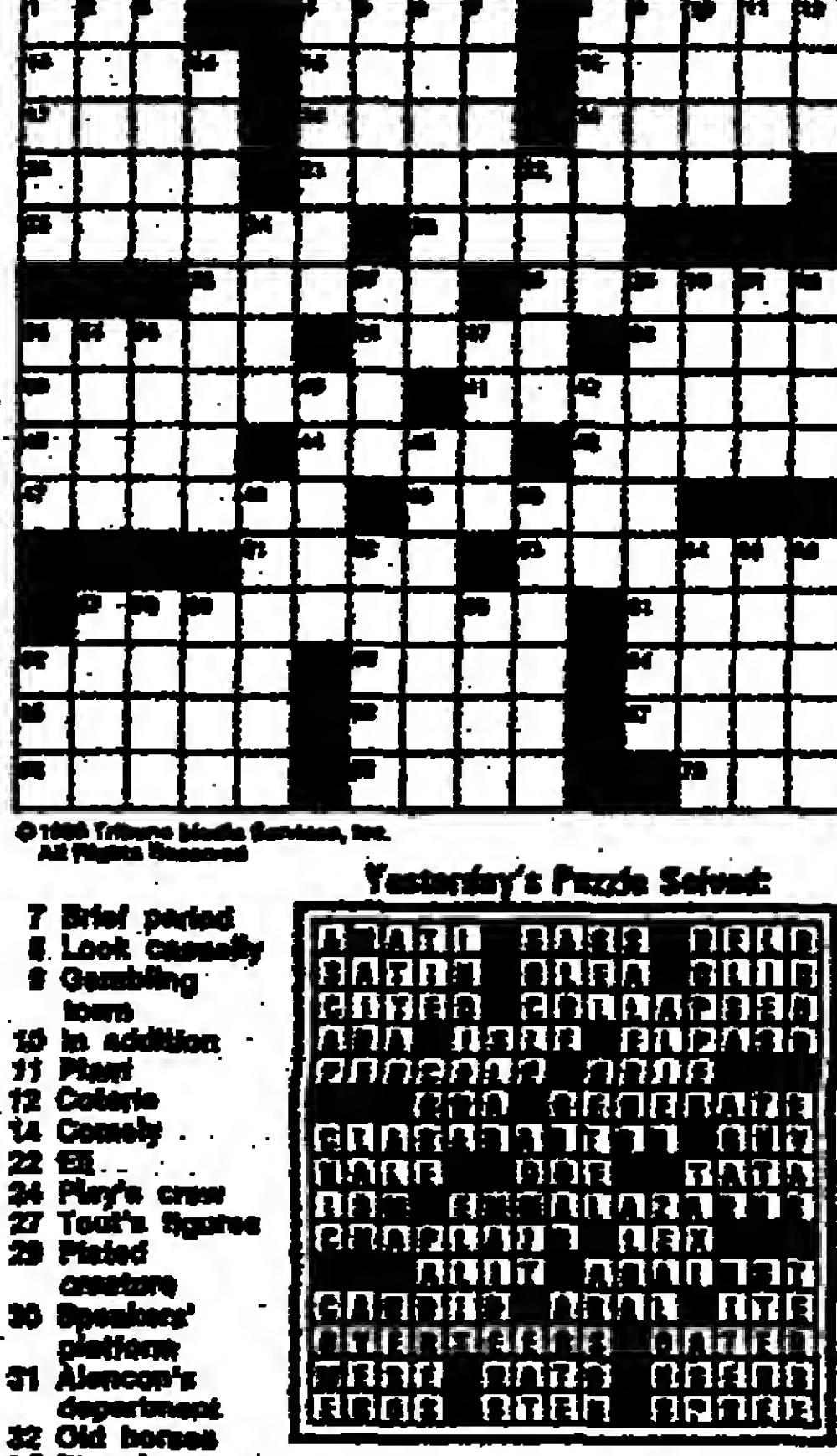
"I think both you birds have the queen of trumps!" Those

of us not so adept at guesswork

for that card.

THE Daily Crossword

By Norman Gashaway



VACANCY FOR A SECRETARY

French multinational company has a vacancy for a secretary (2 shifts working hours) with the following qualifications:

1. Minimum 3 years experience.
2. Fluent in Arabic and English (knowledge of French an asset).
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UAE team warms up

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates national soccer team will play against the Soviet Union, Denmark and Egypt as part of their warm-up matches on the road to the World Cup finals in Italy.

Egypt and the UAE will be two Arab countries at the finals, soccer's most prestigious event. But Egypt is flying the African flag and the UAE is flying Asia's.

The UAE taking part for the first time in the elite 24-nation World Cup finals, is drawn with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia in Group D of the tournament. Egypt is drawn with England, Ireland and the Netherlands in Group F.

Denmark failed to make it to the World Cup finals but they are one of the classier sides in Europe, having made an impressive impact in the previous World Cup in Mexico.

Officials of the UAE Football Association said they were advised by Egypt of the team that was coming but were not certain how many national players, if any, were included.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A

fresh attitude about cooperating and coordinating your efforts towards new conditions and personalities can bring you the answers for which you have been searching.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Problems with friends can now be in back of you and you will be able to have an unusually good time with your friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day socially if people invite you but refrain from yourself entertaining. Financial protection is more money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do something really special for your mate today and reap the rewards. You will need to organise your time more wisely to get more done.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do not limit yourself to so few friends. Reach out and make interesting new acquaintances. A private talk with a successful person will help.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Accept the invitations that charming friends now extend to you. Forget that long drawn out project and proceed with a new one.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Accept the invitation of a friend to a place of entertainment. A smile from a distance will provide you with an idea for a great project; take it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Watch your step at home for otherwise you may have an unpleasant surprise. A new attitude in which there is more romance is needed by you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An influential man has several ideas for increasing your income. Good practical advice in helping

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until Thursday, March 1, 1990.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD 150 for each set, of tender documents.

The closing date for submission of tenders is 2.00 p.m. local time, March 15, 1990.

WASEF AZAR
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Graf backs decision to expel McEnroe; Becker criticises it

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Steffi Graf, the world's top woman tennis player, said Tuesday she believed American John McEnroe "lost control" and officials were correct to default him from his Australian Open fourth-round match.

After her quarterfinal win over American Patty Fendick, Graf described McEnroe's disqualification Sunday as "a sad thing to happen."

He is such a great player and I hope he so much for what he's done on the court," the West German said.

"But he lost his temper. He lost control and I think it was probably the right decision for

the umpires to make.

"He's so great, he should know not to go over the limit."

Graf joined a number of leading players who believed McEnroe deserved to be defaulted.

Mark Wilander, Stefan Edberg,

Mark Woodforde, Aaron Krickstein and David Wheaton on Monday all said McEnroe, who claimed he had misunderstood the rules, was at fault.

Boris Becker came to the defense of John McEnroe saying the misconduct rules are wrong and warning tennis officials against trying to turn players into

"Tennis has to be careful," Becker said at the Australian

Open while McEnroe was flying home to California after being thrown out of the tournament for smashing his racket and cursing.

"Not everybody is like a computer. Tennis is more than just hitting a few balls. It is very good to have a John McEnroe, and I hope we have a couple of more."

"Sure, you can't say what he said to the umpire, but there should be a different penalty than just taking him out of the match."

Becker took some of the attention off the McEnroe affair with a slick escape from two sets down Monday night, a trick reminiscent of his route to the U.S. Open title last fall.

Down in a break in the third set to 1989 Australian finalist Milos Meier, Becker stormed back to win 4-6, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 and reach the quarterfinals against three-time champion Mats Wilander.

"I was quite astonished I go out of it," Becker said.

It was the third time in recent months that Becker has come back from two sets down — the first time against Derrick Rostano in the second round of the U.S. Open, the second time against Andre Agassi in Davis Cup play.

"You have to tell yourself I go down," Becker said. "If I go down, the other guy has to beat me. So it's first a struggle against yourself. That's the first fight you have to win, and then your opponent."

Becker won both fights, turn-

ing up the level of his game midway through the second set after one fan called out, "hey, Boris, you want to be number one?" and another fan yelled, "remember Davis Cup in America."

Becker's first serve was off in the opening set, when he seemed distracted by cawing crows on the rim of the stadium and frustrated by the deaf passing shots of the patient Czech, who broke Becker three times.

Becker bled a 4-0 lead in the second-set tiebreaker, double-faulting to 4-4 and losing it on a lunging forehand he hit long.

But after Meier broke him in the third set for a 3-1 lead, the match suddenly changed. Meier weakened — missing a short drop shot, double-faulting and getting broken at love after two more errors — and Becker bore down.

Meier won only three more games the rest of the match as Becker picked up the pace on his groundstrokes, attacked the net more confidently and unleashed eight aces of service winners.

McEnroe's tantrum and departure were the talk of the open most of the day. It wasn't his worst display of court behaviour, but it cost him a shot at \$200,000 and put into question his future in tennis.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped calls the members of the society to attend the General Meeting on Monday Jan. 29, 1990, 11:00 a.m. at the centre, 7th Circle — Abdallah Ghoush St., behind the Royal Automobile Club, Tel. No. 817598/99 or 817613.

New members are mostly welcomed

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Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Ceausescu aides go on trial Saturday

BUCHAREST (R) — The trial of four top aides of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu will open in Bucharest Saturday, the Romanian Justice Ministry said Tuesday.

The four — Tudor Postelnicu, Emil Bobu, Ion Dinca and Manea Manescu — were indicted Monday on charges of complicity in genocide.

This relates to their role in the killing of an alleged 60,000 people during the 24-year rule of Ceausescu, who was deposed Dec. 22 and shot by firing squad along with his wife Elena on Christmas Day.

The statement from Justice Minister Teofil Pop, carried by official Bucharest Radio, gave no more details of the trial.

But if convicted, the four could face life imprisonment.

The death penalty was abolished Jan. 1 by a controversial decree of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) which angered many Romanians eager for retribution for the years of oppression.

Postelnicu is a former interior minister and security chief, Bobu was chief Communist Party organizer, Dinca was a deputy premier and Ceausescu's right-hand man and Manescu was his first deputy prime minister.

Hundreds of members of the former state apparatus, including leaders of the once-feared Securitate secret police, are expected to be indicted in the coming months, and Saturday's trials will be the first significant opportunity for the new order to reveal publicly the crimes of the old.

The dictator's flamboyant son Nicu and daughter Zoe are also likely to face charges in due course. His elder son Valentin, a less prominent and less unpopular figure, is also under arrest, but his future is unclear.

Vice-President's fears

Romanian Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu Monday accused Securitate secret police loyal to Ceausescu of trying to destroy the NSF and wreck the revolution.

He said agents had infiltrated the month-old interim government, including the Foreign Ministry, and were organizing a smear campaign.

Under Ceausescu the Securitate infiltrated every walk of life and although its armed agents no longer terrorize the streets of Bucharest, many people doubt that all its members have been removed from positions of power.

"These people are doing everything possible to kill us and the revolution," Mazilu said Monday night in his office in the headquarters of the NSF. "I am very worried. The people who are doing this want to destroy our revolution."

Mazilu, number two in the NSF to President Ion Iliescu, has threatened a legal action against Romania Libera, an influential post-Ceausescu newspaper.

It published two attacks on him 10 days ago, accusing the former United Nations expert of being ex-colonel of the Securitate.

"Ceausescu people in the Foreign Ministry are writing against me in the paper," he said.

"All this comes from Securitate files. Do you think that in the new authority there is no Securitate? This is a crazy situation in Romania."

"Frankly in some ways this period is worse for me than under the dictatorship."

Mazilu said that he was detained May 5, 1986 after writing a draft report for the United Nations condemning human rights abuses under Ceausescu.

Diplomats expect more boat people

By Chris Peterson
Reuter

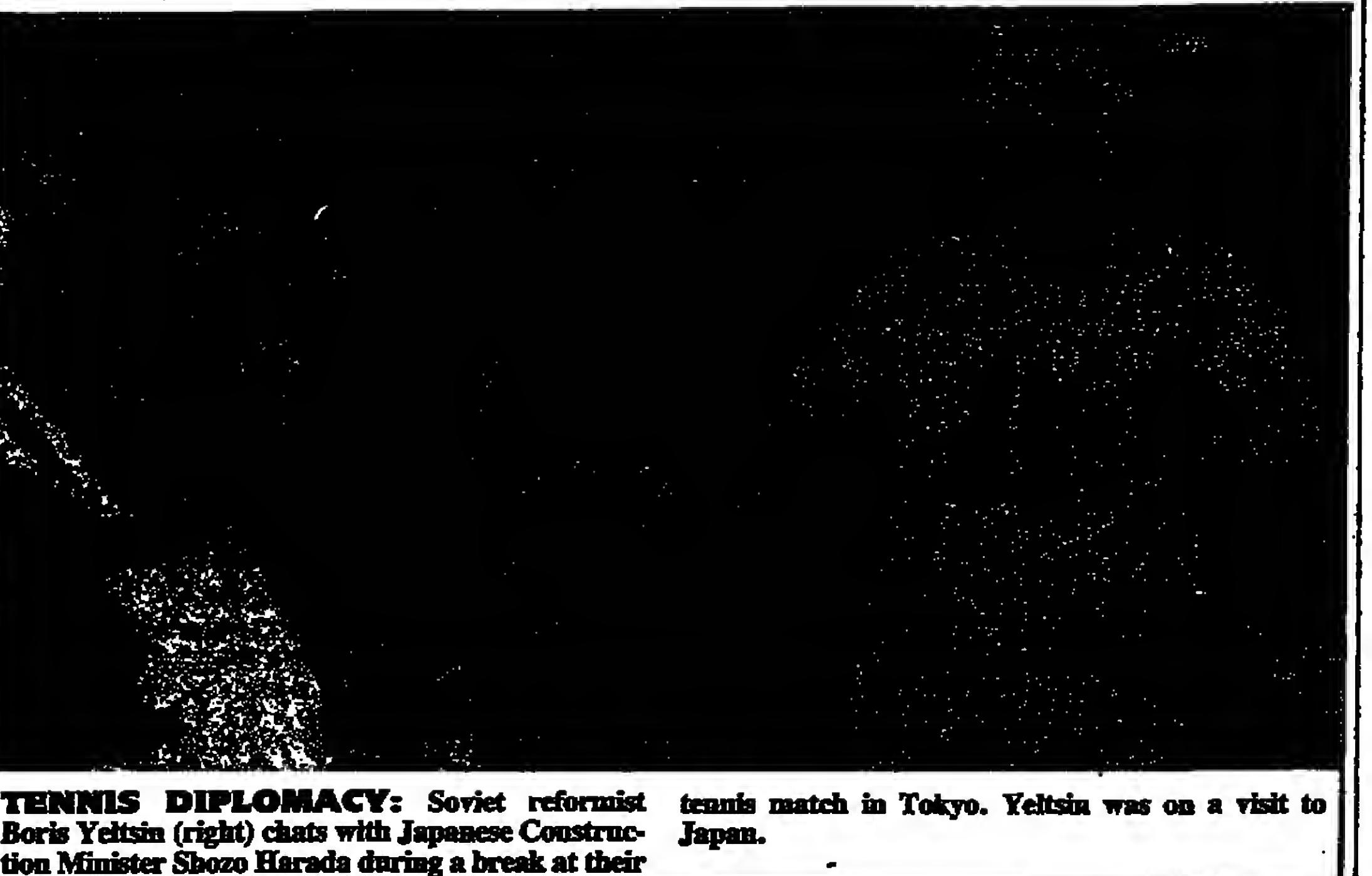
HONG KONG — Several thousand Vietnamese boat people will try to head for Hong Kong when the sailing season resumes in March, regardless of what happens at an international conference in Geneva this week, diplomats believe.

Last year over 34,000 Vietnamese landed in Hong Kong, swelling the population in the camps here to nearly 56,000 and forcing the British colony to start a controversial forced repatriation programme.

"Despite the appalling conditions in the camps, and despite forced repatriation, I still expect several thousand to try it," said one Western diplomat.

"The fundamental problem hasn't gone away — Vietnam's northern provinces are in a miserable state, from an economic viewpoint."

So far this year 147 boat people have arrived, but Hong



TENNIS DIPLOMACY: Soviet reformist Boris Yeltsin (right) chats with Japanese Construction Minister Shozo Harada during a break at their tennis match in Tokyo. Yeltsin was on a visit to Japan.

4 more killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — At

least four people were shot dead Tuesday as Indian forces battled rebels in Kashmir's Himalayan valley.

Police said four civilians died in firing during a procession in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State where militants are demanding independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan.

It was not immediately clear who had opened fire. Many of the militants are armed.

A curfew imposed Saturday, when the Muslim-majority state

erupted in protest against direct rule from Delhi, was relaxed in parts of Srinagar for four hours Tuesday.

But shops and offices remained shuttered as Kashmiris marched in protest against the killing of more than 40 people in four days of confrontation between Indian security forces and demonstrators.

The state's newly-appointed Governor Jagmohan urged militants to surrender their firearms. "all right-thinking people in the state are in deep anguish and agony," he said in a statement, when the agenda.

lamenting the deaths of "our brothers and sisters."

Popular support for the militants has wrought havoc for India's new government.

The state government quit last week in protest at Jagmohan's appointment. On Monday night local police went on strike, alleging Indian forces had shot dead one of their colleagues.

On Tuesday Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan ended two days of talks in New Delhi aimed at improving relations. Instead Kashmir dominated the agenda.

Frontline states urge Pretoria to respond positively to ANC

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Leaders

of the African frontline nations have called on the white-dominated government in South Africa to clear the way for negotiations with the African National Congress (ANC).

A one-day summit of the heads of the six-nation grouping of black-governed states neighbouring South Africa Monday demanded an urgent action by President F.W. de Klerk to open talks with the ANC, current frontline president Kenneth Kaunda said.

The Zambian president said the frontline states endorsed the conditions set by the main organisation fighting in South Africa for dialogue on a peace settlement.

"We urge... that President de Klerk does more to respond to the very reasonable position that the ANC has given," Kaunda said in a closing statement.

At the end of a three-day meeting of its 35-member national executive committee in Lusaka

50-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

It features most of the conditions ratified by the ANC national executive committee Sunday.

Death threats

South African police said Tuesday they were investigating death threats by a right-wing extremist group against de Klerk and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Authorities were checking two letters sent to the Citizen newspaper in the name of "The White Wolves" threatening to kill de Klerk and Jackson, who is expected to visit South Africa shortly, a police spokesman said.

Police said the investigation was "positive" and they could not release any details.

One of the letters was headed "Death Threat — Jesse Jackson," the newspaper reported in its Tuesday editions. It warned the American civil rights leader would be killed if he visited South

Master of computer 'worm' convicted

SYRACUSE, New York (Agencies) — Robert Tappan Morris was convicted Monday of unleashing a computer "worm" programme that infiltrated a nationwide network used by the U.S. Defence Department in 1988 and froze thousands of computers.

The 24-year-old Morris, who told jurors last week that the programme was experiment gone awry, sat stony-faced as the jury read its verdict following five and a half hours of deliberations. The trial had lasted two weeks.

Morris faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for spreading the worm programme into the internet network used by the Defence Department as well as several universities.

Last week Morris, a former Cornell University graduate student, told the jury he had been

experimenting to see if the programme could spread from computer to computer using two computer security holes that he had discovered.

But a programming error caused the programme to duplicate uncontrollably, shutting down about 6,000 computers.

Although defence lawyer Thomas Guidoboni argued that Morris' motives were innocent, noting that he had placed restrictions on the programme to prevent a shutdown of the network, the prosecution claimed that even a good motive, such as intellectual curiosity, was no defence.

"There was no work lost; work was delayed, that's the bottom line," Guidoboni said.

He said that once Morris realized the worm had gone berserk, he took steps to try to stop it. When that failed, Guidoboni said Morris had friends send out a

message on an electronic bulletin board with instructions how to defeat the worm.

"Does a person who intends unauthorised use or to cause a system to crash send out a message to stop it? of course not," Guidoboni said.

Although the indictment charged the worm did about \$1,000 in damage, computer experts estimated that the time computers were down and the labour needed to combat the worm cost \$5 million dollars to \$2 million.

The worm was only supposed to break into a handful of the 180,000 computers on Internet and then just leave a single copy of itself in an all but a few machines, Morris said.

"It was a mistake and I'm sorry," were Morris' last words as he stepped off the witness stand.

Mongolia announces first-ever party polls

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) —

The Mongolian Communist Party, facing unprecedented popular pressure to reform, has for the first time promised elections for the local party posts, the official East German news agency (ADN) said Tuesday.

ADN, reporting from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, said the party newspaper Uuen had announced town and district elections for the third quarter of 1990.

Up to now Mongolia's Stalinist leadership has not permitted competition for party posts.

"Local party leaders are preparing for any changes that might follow and have been ordered to heed all wishes and suggestions from their members," the ADN report said.

ADN said the politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had decided to hold elections before its 20th party congress.

The report was from ADN correspondent Hugo Kroepein, one of only a handful of foreign journalists based permanently in Mongolia. He speaks Mongol and is considered an authority on the country in his native East Germany.

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